

RACERS FROM COAST-TO-COAST VYING FOR KING OF THE WING VICTORY AT GRUNDY COUNTY

By: Rich Murray

On Saturday night, July 5th, sprint car drivers from all over the United States will converge on the 1/3 mile Grundy County Speedway in Morris, Illinois. The event is part of the Inaugural King of the Wing Sprint Car Shoot Out which will pit the top winged pavement sprint car drivers in the country against each other in a series of six races that will earn one driver the title of "King of the Wing." Fans will get a double-dose of highly entertaining open-wheel action with a full program for the STARS National Midgets which concludes with a 50-lap feature as part of the "Freedom 50."

The sprint car race is the third and final event of the Midwest portion of the King of the Wing Sprint Car Shootout schedule. Leading up to the race at Grundy County, the series will compete at Toledo Speedway in Ohio and Winchester Speedway in Indiana. In late November, the series migrates to the west coast for a three-race California swing to close out the series with races at Madera Speedway, Irwindale Speedway, and Kern County Raceway Park. The driver with the highest point total in the three Midwest races will earn a \$2500 prize and takes home the honor of being named Midwest "King of the Wing." The points earned during the round at Grundy County Speedway go toward the overall King of the Wing Sprint Car Shoot Out point standings in which the top point-earning driver will collect a \$5000 prize.

In an exhibition run at Grundy County Speedway on June 20th, 11-time Indianapolis 500 starter and King of the Wing Sprint Car Shoot Out president Davey Hamilton took a few laps at speed in a winged sprint car. Grundy County Speedway has not seen much sprint car action of any sort in recent years, but after Hamilton climbed out of the car, he was convinced that the track will produce a great race for the winged sprint cars. Timing in with an unofficial lap time of 13.1 seconds, Hamilton believes there is still much more speed to be found on race night. "I think we will be in the mid-12s for qualifying," Hamilton said.

The list of drivers expected to compete in the sprint car race at Grundy County Speedway are a who's who of pavement winged sprint car racing drivers in the United States. Many of the drivers are traveling from locations all over the map, from the east coast to the west coast to Middle America. Included on the list are Florida drivers Troy DeCaire and Garrett Green; Mississippi's Todd Fayard; Californians Jojo Helberg, Cody Gerhardt, Kody Swanson, and Tim Skoglund; Indiana's Aaron Pierce; Michigan's Jason Blonde; Tim Cox from Illinois, and many others.

The addition of Grundy County Speedway to the King of the Wing series schedule provides one of only two opportunities to see pavement sprint car racing in the state of Illinois in 2014. The event has already generated plenty of excitement among fans and drivers. According to Hamilton, the appearance of winged sprint cars on pavement is an event that one simply should not miss. "I really feel these cars put on some of the best short track racing you will ever see."

On the schedule alongside the King of Wing Sprint Car Shoot Out and the STARS National Midgets will be the Classic Modifieds, INEX Legends, CSR Super Cups, and the Midwest Legacy Series. Adult tickets are \$25. Children between the ages of 5-12 are \$10. Kids age 4 and under are free! Gates open at 4 p.m. Racing starts at 6:30 p.m. Furthermore, the 110th Annual Grundy County Fair is also going on at the Fairgrounds outside the track. Parking is free!

Just like the fair, or a traveling circus, this night of racing is the kind that only comes to town once a year. It's the biggest open wheel pavement event in the Midwest! Come one, come all! Grundy County Speedway is located one mile north of I-80 on Rt. 47 in Morris, Illinois.

For more info on this event, visit the King of the Wing Sprint Car Shootout website at <http://www.kingofthewing.net/>. Find STARS on the web at <http://www.shorttrackauto.com/>.